

benchmarks, such as the reform of police and media, the elimination of illegal pre-Dayton institutions, the conduct of elections according to democratic norms, elimination of cross-entity barriers to commerce, and a framework for the phased and orderly return of refugees. NATO and U.S. forces will be reduced progressively as achievement of these benchmarks improves conditions, enabling the international community to rely largely on traditional diplomacy, international civil personnel, economic incentives and disincentives, confidence-building measures, and negotiation to continue implementing the Dayton Accords over the longer term.

In fact, great strides already have been made towards fulfilling these aims, especially in the last ten months since the United States re-energized the Dayton process. Since Dayton, a stable military environment has been created; over 300,000 troops returned to civilian life and 6,600 heavy weapons have been destroyed. Public security is improving through the restructuring, retraining and reintegration of local police. Democratic elections have been held at all levels of government and hard-line nationalists—especially in the Republika Srpska—are increasingly marginalized. Independent media and political pluralism are expanding. Over 400,000 refugees and displaced persons have returned home—110,000 in 1997. One third of the publicly-indicted war criminals have been taken into custody.

Progress has been particularly dramatic since the installation of a pro-Dayton, pro-democracy Government in Republika Srpska in December. Already, the capital of Republika Srpska has been moved from Pale to Banja Luka; media are being restructured along domestic lines; civil police are generally cooperating with the reform process; war criminals are surrendering; and Republika Srpska is working directly with counterparts in the Federation to prepare key cities in both entities for major returns of refugees and displaced persons.

At the same time, long-standing obstacles to inter-entity cooperation also are being broken down: a common flag now flies over Bosnia institutions, a common currency is being printed, a common automobile license plate is being manufactured, and mail is being delivered and trains are running across the inter-entity boundary line.

Although progress has been tangible, many of these achievements still are reversible and a robust international military presence still is required at the present time to sustain the progress. I am convinced that the NATO-led force—and U.S. participation in it—can be progressively reduced as conditions continue to improve, until the implementation process is capable of sustaining itself without a major international military presence.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 1998.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 856, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

#### AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 856, UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS ACT

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 856, the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the action of the House just taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

#### PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1232

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 1232, a bill originally introduced by Representative Bono of California, for the purposes of adding co-sponsors and requesting reprints pursuant to clause 4 of rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO AMTRAK REFORM COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 203(b)(1) of Public Law 105-134, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Amtrak Reform Council for a term of 5 years:

Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey;

Mr. Bruce Chapman of Washington; and

Mr. Christopher Gleason of Pennsylvania.

There was no objection.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, continuing the discussion on do we really have a surplus, yesterday the Congressional Budget Office estimated

that this year we would have a surplus of \$8 billion. However, this year we are borrowing about \$90 billion from the Social Security trust fund, so we are hoodwinking the American people, pretending there is a surplus.

We have come a long way. We have cut down overspending by over \$200 billion over the last 3 years, but it is not a surplus. We still have a long way to go, and it is important that we put Social Security first. Anybody that would like a copy of this survey, please let me know. I will include this for the RECORD.

In this survey, the voters profoundly dislike using Social Security surpluses to subsidize the remainder of the Federal Government. Ninety-three percent want Congress to balance the budget without using the Social Security deposits.

Let us still stay on track. Let us get a more efficient, more constructive government that is going to serve the needs of government at a lesser tax rate and more efficiently and not use the surplus to mask the deficit.

We have asked questions about Social Security on three national surveys this year.

The primary observations are:

Voters profoundly dislike using the Social Security surpluses to subsidize the remainder of the federal government. 93% want Congress to balance the budget without using SS deposits.

Voters overwhelmingly reject "raiding" of the Trust Fund. 74% approve of a new federal law prohibiting Congress and the President from raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to cover deficit spending.

Voters are inclined to believe that the federal government is using Social Security Trust Fund surpluses to mask the size of the deficit.

The President's credibility on Social Security is not secure.

Voters would rather use the overall budget surplus to shore up Social Security than to cut taxes, pay down debt or spend on federal programs.

Younger voters don't believe they'll get Social Security when they retire, and Republicans are especially dubious.

Voters do not consider the Social Security system to be basically sound.

Personal Savings Accounts is the preferred approach to strengthen Social Security.

	ALL	GOP	DEMS	IND
Personal Savings Accounts .....	43	52	34	47
Eliminate benefits/rich .....	18	13	22	21
Raise retirement age .....	10	11	11	9
Raise payroll taxes .....	6	4	8	4
Reduce benefits for everyone .....	3	3	4	3

Voters are strongly in favor (six to one) of allowing those under 40 to privately invest a portion of their payroll taxes for their future retirement.

□ 2015

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PITTS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.